

A Murder in Paradise

PART ONE: FLAW & DISORDER

IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM, THE PEOPLE ARE REPRESENTED BY TWO SEPARATE, YET EQUALLY IMPORTANT GROUPS. THE POLICE WHO INVESTIGATE CRIME AND THE DISTRICT'S ATTORNEYS WHO PROSECUTE THE OFFENDERS.

THIS STORY HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THAT.

**CHUN!
CHUN!**

BEEN A MONTH SINCE I SAVED CABLE'S LIFE. HE'S BEEN RECOVERATING--WELL, SLEEPING MOSTLY--ON PROVIDENCE, HIS SOUTH PACIFIC ISLAND THINK TANK.

READING SOME OLD DUSTY SCROLLS, TOO, SOMETHING ABOUT SOMETHING CALLED THE SKORNN AND MUMBLED ABOUT ROUNDING UP SOME OLD FRIENDS OF HIS FOR SOME BIG FIGHT.

I SUSPECT THAT'S JUST A GRATUITOUS CONTINUITY TOUCH TO HELP US FINALLY ESTABLISH OUR TWELINE.

I BEEN HANGING AROUND MOSTLY, KEEPING AN EYE ON HIM, BUT BETWEEN YOU N'ME, I REALLY GOT NOTHING BETTER TO DO.

BY THE WAY, NICOLE SAYS IT IS JUST YOU N'ME--YOU'RE OUR ONLY PAYING CUSTOMER! THANKS, BY THE WAY.

PAYING MERC JOBS BEEN HARD TO COME BY 'ON ACCOUNT OF EVERYONE THINKING I LOBOTOMIZED CABLE.

WHEN HE "DIED," HE LEFT EVERYONE ON THE PLANET WARM AN' FUZZY AND HOPEFUL. THE WAY I GET WHEN I WATCH EVANGELINE LILLY.

SO, I BEEN HANGING AROUND...

... MOSTLY...



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WELL,
THIS IS A BIT OF
A SURPRISE.

ALL THINGS
CONSIDERED, IRENE,
IT'S REALLY NOT

RABBI ROSEN,
DID YOU EXPECT
SOMEONE TO BE
MURDERED ON
PROVIDENCE?

NO, JOHN.
HE MEANS BECAUSE
THE VICTIM IS HANJ
BIN BARAT.

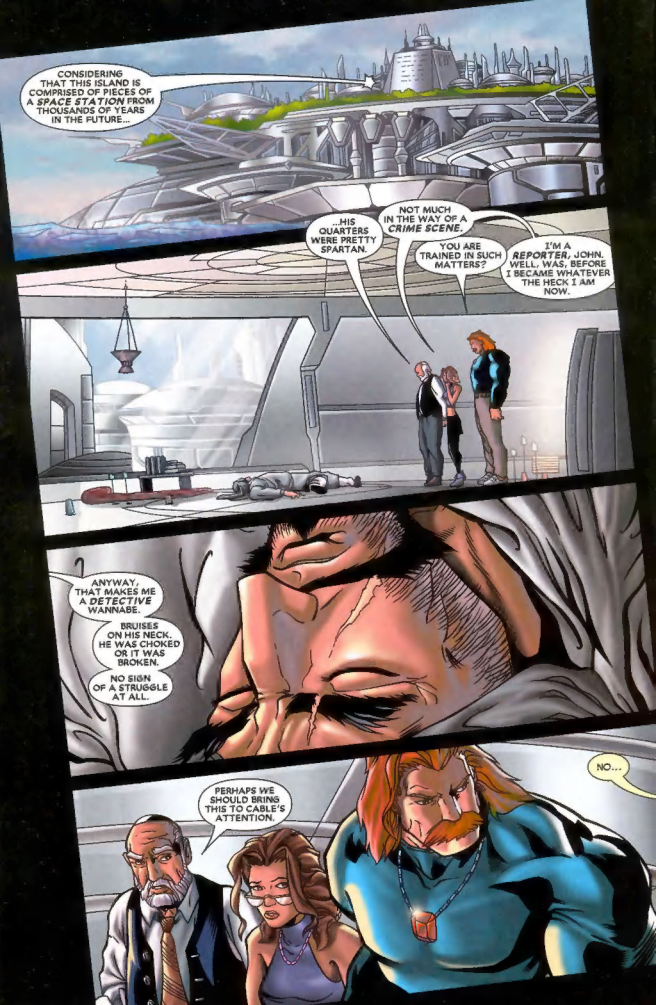
I DON'T
KNOW WHO
THAT IS.

HE'S THE
WORLD'S MOST
WANTED
TERRORIST.

THEN
WHY IS HE
HERE?

CABLE WANTED
HIM TO STOP BEING THE
WORLD'S MOST WANTED
TERRORIST.

WELL, IT
WORKED.



CONSIDERING
THAT THIS ISLAND IS
COMPRISED OF PIECES OF
A SPACE STATION FROM
THOUSANDS OF YEARS
IN THE FUTURE...

...HIS
QUARTERS
WERE PRETTY
SPARTAN.

NOT MUCH
IN THE WAY OF A
CRIME SCENE.

YOU ARE
TRAINED IN SUCH
MATTERS?

I'M A
REPORTER, JOHN.
WELL, WAS, BEFORE
I BECAME WHATEVER
THE HECK I AM
NOW.

ANYWAY,
THAT MAKES ME
A DETECTIVE
WANNABE.

BRUISES
ON HIS NECK.
HE WAS CHOKED
OR IT WAS
BROKEN.

NO SIGN
OF A STRUGGLE
AT ALL.

PERHAPS WE
SHOULD BRING
THIS TO CABLE'S
ATTENTION.

NO...



WE ALL DECIDED IT WOULD BE BEST IF WE CONTINUED OUR INVESTIGATIONS SEPARATELY.

IRENE THOUGHT I SHOULD CHECK THE ISLAND'S SEWAGE PROCESSING PLANT FOR CLUES...

...WHILE SHE WENT TO TALK WITH THE BIG KAHUNA, CABLE...

YOU'RE STILL RESEARCHING THAT THING?

PREPARING FOR A POTENTIAL PROBLEM IS ALL.

WHAT'S GOING ON TODAY?

FOR YOU, REST.

I'M TIRED OF RESTING.

DOCTORS SAY YOUR BODY HAS ALMOST COMPLETELY ADJUSTED TO THE NEW TECHNO-ORGANIC MESH.

IT STOPPED ITCHING. I CAN'T WAIT TO SCULPT SOME FINGER LASERS INTO IT.

YEAH, RECENT EVENTS HAVE MATURED YOU...

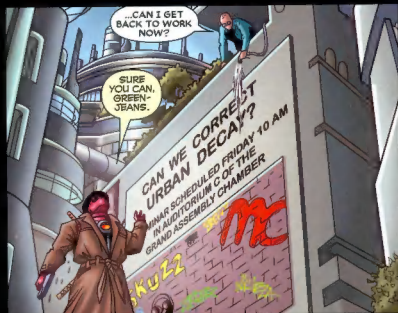




THE AUTOPSY WAS COVERED.
THE INTERVIEWS WERE
COVERED. EVERYTHING WAS
COVERED BUT ME.

I WAS WET.
I WAS COLD.
I WAS--

UHM...MR.
DEADPOOL...



...CAN I GET
BACK TO WORK
NOW?

SURE
YOU CAN,
GREEN-
JEANS.

CAN WE CORRECT
URBAN DECAY?
WINNER SCHEDULED FRIDAY 10 AM
IN AUDITORIUM C OF THE
GRAND ASSEMBLY CHAMBER



I HAD TO
FIGURE OUT
WHO KILLED
BARAT.

NOT 'CAUSE I
REALLY GAVE A
FLYING FIG--



--BUT BECAUSE
IF I DIDN'T DO
SOMETHING
SOON--

--NICE. PEACEFUL
CIVILIANS WERE
GOING TO
DISMEMBERED.

THIS WAS ONE OF THREE
BUILDINGS ON THE ISLAND
USED AS MOSQUES.

THAT'S PRETTY
SUSPICIOUS,
RIGHT?

I MEAN, WHY LET
STATISTICS, TRUTH
AND REALITY CLOUD
MY JUDGMENT? I'M
NOT GONNA BE
SOME PANSY LIBERAL.



WHO
KILLED HAJI BIN
BARAT?

I KNOW
IT WAS ONE
OF YOU...



...WHAT
WAS IT? MAD AT
BARAT?

--CAUSE
HE WAS GONNA GIVE
PEACE A CHANCE?



FIGURED THAT
WOULD GET IN THE
WAY OF STARTING YOUR
WHOLE SUICIDE BOMBER
SCHTICK HERE,
TOO?

NO! WE
DESPISE WHAT
BARAT STANDS
FOR--

WAS THAT
A JOKE? BARAT AIN'T
STANDIN' ANYMORE! HE'S
DEAD--AND MORE
IMPORTANTLY--

--I'M THE
ONLY ONE ALLOWED
TO TELL STUPID JOKES
AROUND HERE!

WHERE ARE
ALL YOUR GUNS
AND ROCKET-
PROPELLED
GRENADES?

WHAT?

DON'T ALL
YOU GUYS HAVE
GUNS AND ROCKET-
PROPELLED
GRENADES?

THAT IS
DISGUSTING! I
DON'T CARE IF I DIE
RIGHT NOW, BUT YOU
ARE A PIG AND
AN IDIOT!

DUDE, THAT
WASN'T NICE. I MEAN,
I CAN'T HELP IT IF ALL MY
INFORMATION COMES
FROM NETWORK
NEWS.

NOT LIKE
AL JAZEERA IS GIVIN' A
FAIR AND BALANCED
PICTURE EITHER, YOU
KNOW.





LIKE THIS!

SEE, IT'S EASY!

SO WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR IS SOMEONE ON THIS ISLAND WHO CAN SCALE THE OUTSIDE OF THE BUILDING, BREAK IN, AND COVER FIFTEEN YARDS IN TWO JUMPS.



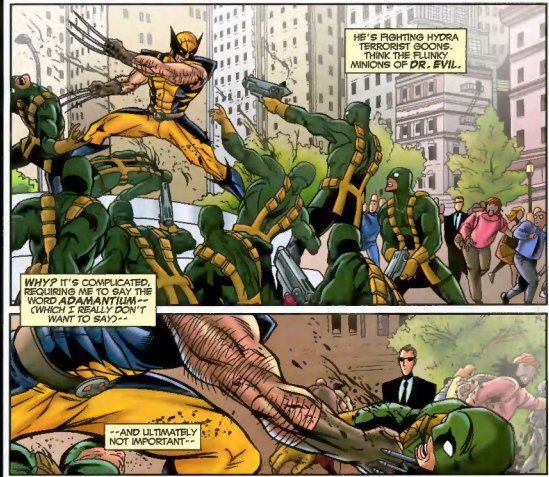
THAT SHOULD HELP... NARROW IT DOWN...

SOMETHING ABOUT THE WAY THEY LOOKED AT EACH OTHER, THEN LOOKED AT ME. GOT ME THINKIN' NOW WOULD BE THE PERFECT TIME FOR...

...A SUB-PLOT CUTAWAY!

IF YOU'VE ONLY BEEN READING COMICS FOR A FEW YEARS, A **SUB-PLOT** IS A TIME-TESTED STORY-TELLING DEVICE FOR SEQUENTIAL FICTION THAT ALLUDES--WHICH MEANS HINTS--TO A DEVELOPING STORYLINE THAT SLOWLY ESCALATES ON A MONTHLY BASIS UNTIL IT BECOMES THE MAIN STORY.

ADDING AN ADDITIONAL LAYER OF COMPLEXITY--OR PENCIL-GNASHING EDITORIAL ANGER, TAKE YOUR PICK--IS THE FACT THAT THIS CUTAWAY ALSO ALLUDES (THAT STILL MEANS HINTS) TO CURRENT EVENTS HAPPENING TO MY GOOD PAL (OKAY, HE HATES ME) **WOLVERINE**.



HE'S FIGHTING HYDRA TERRORIST GOONS--THINK THE FLUNKY MINIONS OF DR. EVIL..

WHY? IT'S COMPLICATED, REQUIRING ME TO SAY THE WORD **ADAMANTIUM**--(WHICH I REALLY DON'T WANT TO SAY)--

--AND ULTIMATELY NOT IMPORTANT--

DEAR DEADPOOL

That's right, old chums—lucky issue 13 marks our first-ever letters page! Let the wif-flipping commence as DP himself responds to YOUR comments. Enjoy.

—CDP team

Dear Cable & Deadpool team,

I just wanted to tell you that your book is AWESOME!!! It's always the first book I read on new comic day. I have to admit when the first issue arrived at my local comic store I was skeptical. "Cable...? I said, 'and Deadpool?' How...why? You all proved me sooo wrong. Patrick's pencils capture the lighthearted action perfectly and Fabian's storytelling effectively blew my mind in a major way. The most major of ways, really. I thought the days of mind-blowing comics ended long ago but you guys proved me wrong. Any book that has a cameo from the Silver Surfer (biggest badass in the cosmos forever) is alright in my book. I thought I was going to flip my wig when he matched wits and powers with Cable. Anyways, I could go on forever about the excellent dialogue, the fresh storytelling, the awesome art, or even the punctuality of the book, but suffice it to say...keep up the good work guys, you're actually doing it!! Thanks for a great read. Excelsior!!!!

Sincerely,
Sam Wilson (not the Falcon)
Richmond, VA

Are you really the Falcon? That is so cool. I had your Mjølner figure back in the 70s, but the wings were out of place. Lame. How's Redwing? Yell! I'm still going on Union Square.

So anyway, thanks for the letter and for having the LEAST amount of typos out of any letter on this page!

Dear everyone on Cable/Deadpool,

Well done for creating the best team-up comic on the market. The duo has dynamics that make me pick up the title every month. For starters there's the comedy—who can beat Deadpool for comedy? The guy turns everything into a joke (but with a serious undertone). Seeing him as an "X-Man" (well, temp-X-Man) in Marvel Gifs costume had me laughing so hard my sides felt actually hurt.

Then there's the action—Cable's a soldier who means business, just look how he not only took on the Blue Church, the Six Pack and the X-Men but also the Silver Surfer!! Even the Avengers didn't see so much action in their last arc.

And who could forget storylines? I don't know how Fabian does it but he pulls off some amazing story arcs that keep me hooked on the comic the whole time I'm reading (and then pull me back in for a 2nd glance).

So in closing I would like to say thanks to Fabian for the great stories, Mr. Zircber/Udon for the amazing art (it is amazingly well done) and to the editorial team for keeping all this action going!

Make Mine Marvel,
Gary Pickard
Salford, UK

For a guy from England, let me tell you, I practically sprained my wrist flogging all your types. I thought you guys were supposed to be educated or something? Just 'cause you invented the language doesn't mean you can brutalize it.

Oh, thanks for the kind words, except telling me more happened in our book than in Avengers is kind of a backhanded compliment, since nothing happens in their book anymore.

That was a cheap shot. Sorry, I wanted to be in the New Avengers, but I didn't "rate" as important enough, which, sure, I guess I understand, considering we got Spider-Woman, Sentry, Luke Cage—all top headline type guys.

Hope they get cancelled. What, Nicole? They're selling like two hundred bazillion copies? Serious? Crap. That's like 90's numbers...What're we selling? You kidding? Really? Oh.

Never mind.

Dear Mr. Nicieza,

Cable & Deadpool end the (New) Thunderbolts are my two favorite books and I couldn't be happier that you are at the helm. Cutting to the chase and avoiding all the kissing-up (although warranted), I must ask whether your statement by Deadpool on the seventh-to-last page of Cable & Deadpool #12 "Anyone wearing a harness rig has a failure release to prevent it from catching on fire and forcing you to fly into Kree spaceports and blow up..." is a direct reference to the supposedly-late Hawkeye? Could the "new Swordsman" whom you've introduced in the New Thunderbolts perhaps be our hero brought back to life? I hope so, but I won't keep my fingers crossed. Thank you for writing my favorite books so incredibly well and making my Wednesdays at the comic shop so enjoyable.

P.S. Is there any possible way you could let me know how to get hold of Tom Grummett's original art? I'm dying to get my hands on some original pages of Atlas from the New Thunderbolts!

P.S.S. Please don't kill Atlas! He's my favorite character!

Best,
Matthew Roderick Eschert

Okay, first of all, I hate P.S.'s and P.S.S.'s. I think they're kinda, well, limp. Second of all, we would never make fun of the Avengers. Ever. They're the bestest ever. Ever.

Third of all, it's incredibly rude to be asking about Grummett's art in a book drawn by Zircber. Do you have ANY idea how incredibly insecure artists are? Nicieza (gesundheit!) tells me printing this letter is going to cost him six hours on the phone with Patrick now.

Lastly, the new Swordsman is NOT Hawkeye. Hawkeye is dead. He died a wonderfully heroic death ever in that incredibly great comic book, the Avengers.

Hey there,

Maybe I'm just dense, but I still have NO idea why the hell reintroducing the T.O. thing back into Cable's system is the way to magically reverse his lobotomy. I just finished Cable/Deadpool #12 and I've been vague for it to make sense, and it doesn't yet. It's all vague facoids that don't coexist. I enjoyed Deadpool monkeying around with Agent X, though.

Thanks!
Andy

Okay, Andy, thanks for letting us print this letter, 'cause seriously, dude, you're just ASKING for some abuse. Before I start, though, let me apologize in advance, because in your defense, you might not realize that YOU'RE ACTUALLY SUPPOSED TO READ THE COMIC BOOK.

(Oh, and the missing apostrophe was just a bone I'm tossing to Gary.)

Let's clarify your confusion at #12. Per the PRINTED DIALOGUE (which, by the way, you're supposed to read):

Fixer says, "The whole idea was to reintroduce the techno-organic mesh into Cable's system," 'cept since this is an actual lifeform, with a mind of its own, we're risking it'll fight back against Cable. But it's an embryo, for crying out loud, what kind of wuss would let an alien baby take over his mind?"

Followed by cute drawings of Cable deciding to fight back against the alien baby, which, apparently, from what was written above, was trying to take over his mind.

And in response to Cable telling Domino he doesn't want to start the cycle of fighting the t-o vinnis all over again, Domino says, "This will be different, won't it? You used to channel your powers inward to keep the virus at bay—but this isn't a virus anymore and you don't have your powers."

And Cable says, "So merging with a symbiote is somehow better."

And a page later, Fixer says Cable is gaining control over it, using it to form bone and muscle structure. Then Cable wakes up with his new arm. A page later, Cable

clearly says most of his telepathy is gone. He doesn't have his powers anymore. I removed that part of his brain in #10, but he doesn't need his powers to control that t-o mesh, 'cause it's not a virus attacking his body anymore, it's a symbiotic lifeform—a baby he valiantly kicked the crap out of.

Wasn't that easy? Sheesh. Readers today... how would you guys have ever survived Omega the Unknown...?

Dear Cable & Deadpool,

Just want to give my thanks for a really great title, and one that is full of Marvel continuity. Great stuff. Now I got some questions, and some very exciting requests!!

1. With the recent launch of Black Panther, how about getting in on some of the spotlight, and have T'Challa himself meet Cable and Deadpool, he's met them both before but not together...

2. Pitch a Deadpool/Deathstroke series to DC and Marvel, and get Gail Simone and Fabian to write together, it would be a major hit I'm telling you!!

3. Bullseye (Iuff said).

4. I wanna see Cable help Wade figure out more of his past.

5. We need Apocalypse to show up again!! He is making big headlines right now, and is Cable's major bad guy.

6. I wanna see some more Arab-Berber heroes!! (Not villains.) Give them some good representations!!

So until Cable and Deadpool bring their feelings out of the closet for each other, Make Mine Marvel!

Jamal Sagaur

Okay, Jamal. I liked your letter. Easy and to the point.

1) T'Challa is too cool for us and he could kick my butt in, so no, he won't be appearing in this book.

2) Deathstroke is too cool for us and he could kick my butt in, so no, he won't be appearing in this book. And Fabian is too insecure about comparing himself to Gail, so he said no, too. And Marvel's lawyers said no, on account of they don't want anyone at DC to notice the similarities. I don't know what that means.

3) Bullseye is too cool for us and he could... "nuff Said.

4) I don't like that idea. I don't want to know about my past. Except for trying to remember that night with the Lombardi twins...

5) Great idea. Since he'd kick Nate's butt up and down the book, expect this to happen real soon!

6) I had some entertaining run-ins with some Arabs in this issue. Hope you enjoyed it as much as I did.

Fabian, Zircber, et al.

Thank you for a hilarious and consistently impressive title. Issue 12 of C&D was quite possibly the best issue to date. When I first heard that Agent X was making an appearance I was a bit skeptical about how you would handle the character, but I was very impressed. There were lots of great jokes in this issue, and the art by Zircber was as always superb. I honestly think Patrick Zircber is the finest artist working for Marvel right now. The Fox was great in this storyline I hope he doesn't disappear from comics after this arc, maybe you can bring him back into New Thunderbolts sometime soon.

The Alex Hayden recap page was the cream of the crop. As soon as I opened this book, I felt like I was reading my beloved Agent X all over again.

Thanks for a blast from the past. I can't wait to see what you've got in store in future issues.

So until Cable turns his hand into a spatula and starts a cooking show, Make Mine Cable & Deadpool.

James Mallone

Well, that was painless. Okay, thanks. Seriously. Spats is still a funny word.

Oh, and Fabian thanks you for capitalizing his name. His ego needed that.

That's it for this month, folks! Next issue, a lightning bolt hits a federal superhuman prison freeing like a gazillion bad guys and the good guys go to get their butts handed to them instead of just letting the bad guys starve to death on an inaccessible island.

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IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR NAME AND
ADDRESS PRINTED, PLEASE
LET US KNOW. LETTERS MAY BE EDITED FOR
CONTENT AND LENGTH.

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abusing YOU next? Send
your letters to
mheroes@marvel.com
and mark your message
"okay to print."



DCP

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